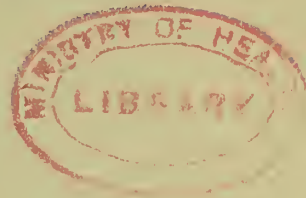


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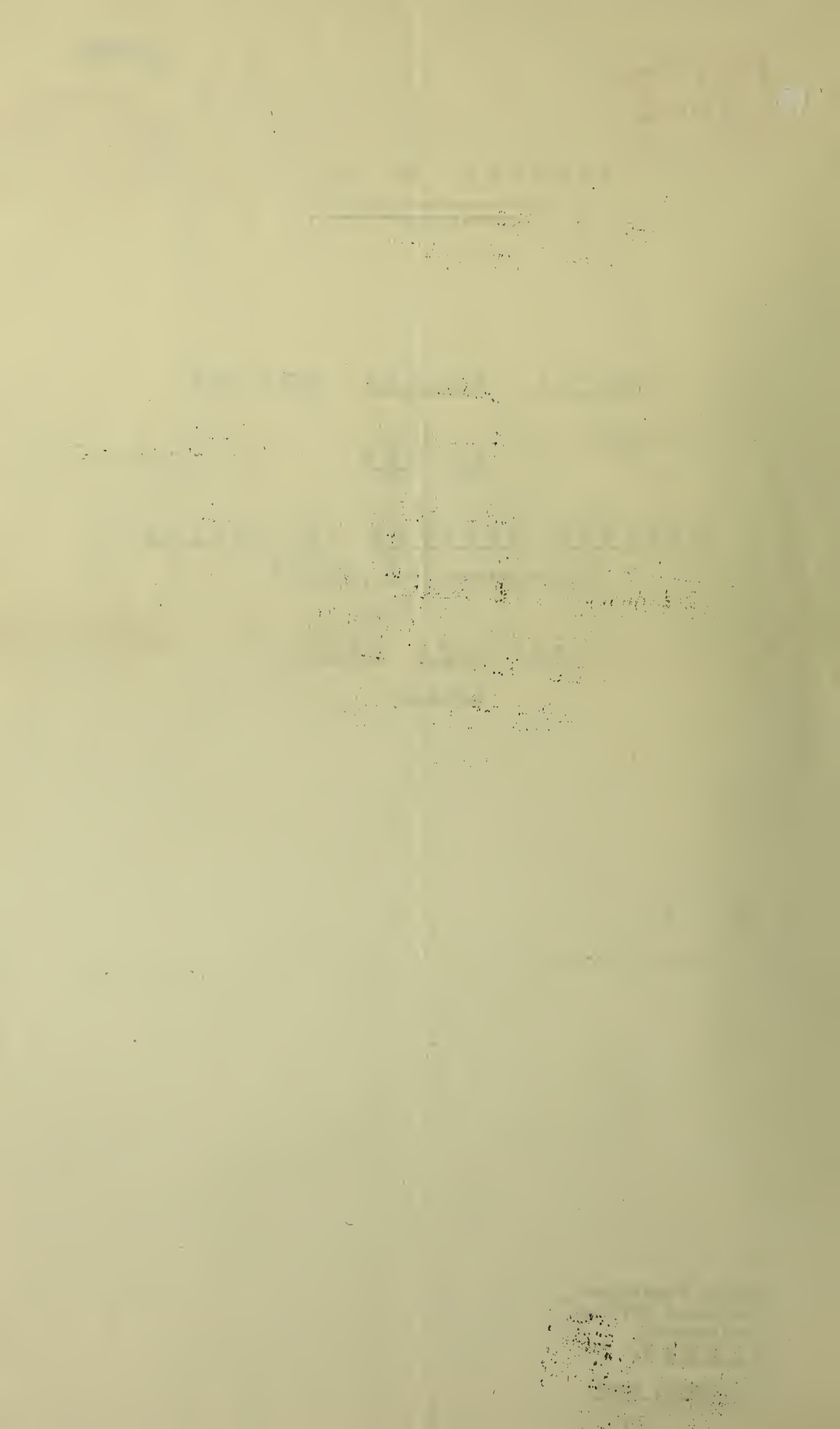
(W.H.Parkinson, M.D., D.P.H.)

F O R      T H E      Y E A R

1 9 4 1.

Health Department,  
Municipal Offices,  
"Bodlondob",  
C O N W A Y.

September, 1942.



TO: The Chairman and Members of the  
HEALTH COMMITTEE,  
Borough of Conway.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting herewith the Annual Report on the health of your district for the calendar year 1941. During the first four months (January to April) I was not your Medical Officer of Health but as I acted in that capacity for the greater part of the year I have assumed full responsibility for the preparation of this report. This again appears in the abridged form as suggested by the Welsh Board of Health to be appropriate during the period of the war; indeed it is now even less informative than it was last year owing to the suppression of certain vital statistics which were published for the year 1940. Circular 260 (Wales) dated 24th March, 1941, from the Welsh Board of Health deals with the contents of the 1941 Annual Report and contains the following paragraph: -

"It is understood that substantially the usual particulars will be furnished to the Medical Officer of Health by the Registrar General but I am to request that on grounds of National security care should be taken not to publish in the Annual Report complete tables of local populations or quotations from the figures supplied by the Registrar General which may enable any substantial series of local populations to be reconstructed."

The effect of this restriction is very far reaching and compliance with it involves the suppression of some of the most important data which normally appear in an Annual Report. A moment's thought will reveal that in order to comply with this request it is not sufficient merely to suppress the population itself - it is necessary also to withhold either the birth-rates, death-rates, etc., or the corresponding numbers of births, deaths, etc., from which these rates are calculated. By giving both these sets of facts the population could easily be calculated; therefore, one or other may be quoted but not both. I have decided that of the two, the rates will be the more informative and interesting and therefore throughout the following pages these alone have been recorded. All these statistics whether published or not, are being carefully preserved in the Department's records and will be available for future reference if required.

The changes due to the war already noted in last year's Report and the consequent re-adjustment of the Department's activities continued to be felt in an ever increasing degree during 1941, with the result that your Health Department continued to be very fully occupied throughout the year. Prominent amongst these new responsibilities was the care of the large number of evacuees that remained in the Borough. Acute overcrowding, due in part to the presence of evacuees and of civil servants working in neighbouring districts, prevailed everywhere, bringing with it the ever present risk of epidemic disease. It is satisfactory therefore to be able to report that despite these adverse factors the incidence of notifiable disease and the death rates remained most satisfactory; they compare favourably with the Borough in the previous years and with England and Wales generally. The only incident that



held the potentialities of danger was an outbreak of Paratyphoid "B" - three cases occurred, the first of which was notified on the 11th June, 1941, followed by two others on the 14th and 21st June respectively. All these cases were removed immediately to Groesynydd Isolation Hospital. The diagnosis was in each case confirmed bacteriologically at the Castle Bank Laboratory. All three recovered. Every possible enquiry to trace the origin of the infection that could be thought of either by the Director of the Castle Bank Laboratory, the County Medical Officer of Health or myself was carried out. Large numbers of specimens of various kinds, including milk, water, etc., were examined, but despite these efforts the source of infection remained undiscovered: whatever this was it must have remained operative for a very short time only, as all three cases occurred within a period of ten days and no secondary crop of cases occurred.

As regards other infectious diseases it is gratifying to note from Table V. that there has been a marked reduction in the numbers notified, i.e., 164 against 219 in 1940. It will be seen that there were increases in the cases of Paratyphoid, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and Tuberculosis and reductions in Diphtheria, Measles, Pneumonia and Erysipelas.

Diphtheria. - A national campaign sponsored by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Sir Wilson Jameson, has been in progress for more than two years, the object of which is to secure the active immunisation of the child population by a course of protective inoculations. This is a measure which has been practiced in the United States of America for a number of years and which has been extremely successful. The responsibility for such immunisation of the child population properly attaches to each Local Authority but arrangements have been made in the County of Caernarvon for the work to be done by the County Medical Staff. Precise numbers of such immunisations are not readily available but I am informed that the great majority of the native children have already undergone the necessary course and that this work is still being carried on. Most of the evacuees in the Borough were immunised before leaving their homes and others are also being done after their arrival in Conway, either by the County Council Authorities or by private Practitioners.

Reference was made in last year's Report to the spread of contagious skin diseases amongst the evacuees and to the totally inadequate facilities then existing for dealing with this urgent problem. So pressing did this matter become during the summer that the Welsh Board of Health was approached and permission sought to establish a Sick Bay. As a result, sanction for this was eventually obtained and in due course a detached private house known as "Fowey" and situate in Cadnant Park, Conway, was requisitioned and equipped in such a way as to make it suitable for the reception, isolation and treatment of these cases. Inevitable delay took place in securing the Board's sanction, carrying out the necessary structural alterations and appointing the necessary staff, but eventually these preliminaries were carried out and the Sick Bay opened on 24th September, 1941. Details of the staff appear on page 4. Between the date of opening and the 31st December, 123 children were admitted, of which 48 were from the Conway Borough and 75 from outside areas situate in other parts of Caernarvonshire. The average stay in hospital was 21 days. The Welsh Board of Health originally authorised the establishment of 25 beds but so pressing was the need for

accommodation that this number was gradually exceeded until it reached a maximum of 32 beds at the end of the year. The admission of children to the Sick Bay was restricted by the Welsh Board to those between the ages of five and fifteen years, and although this condition was generally complied with, on occasion it became necessary to admit a very few children outside these limits. It soon became evident, however, that a very substantial number of patients outside these age limits (infants and adults) existed in the Borough for whom no effective treatment was available and who in fact were infecting and re-infecting the evacuees treated at "Towey". In an endeavour to deal with this further problem arrangements were made for these patients to attend on a daily basis for treatment. This was a valuable extension of the services of the Sick Bay but eventually the demands became too heavy for the limited resources of "Towey" and early in 1942 an annexe was opened in Llandudno Junction to deal with these outside cases more efficiently.

The need for securing better control of these outside cases was eventually officially recognised with the result that the Scabies Order was issued on 23th October, 1941, and became operative immediately. During the year under review no occasion arose to take advantage of the provisions of the Order.

The Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector is incorporated herewith.

I have to thank my colleague, Mr. Roes Griffiths, the Sanitary Inspector, for his help in the preparation of this Report and for his valuable co-operation throughout the year and also the temporary clerical staff who came into the Department on short notice and without any special knowledge of the work to be done but who, despite this initial disadvantage, have carried out their duties in a most proficient manner and to my complete satisfaction.

It has been a pleasure to work with the Officials of all Departments, who have shown untiring zeal under the guidance of the Town Clerk, Mr. Arthur L. Ralphes.

Finally I desire to express my appreciation to all Members of your Committee for their confidence and help on all occasions.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

*W. H. Parkinson*  
Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (during 1941).

Medical Officer of Health (Part time only).

January to April: J. Gordon Mathias, B.Sc., M.P.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
May to December: W. H. Parkinson, M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector. Wholly engaged in service of this Council only.

Roes Griffiths, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Holder of specialised R.San.I. Certificate on Meat and Foods. Also carries out duties as designated Officer under: Shops (Hours of Closing) Acts.

Young Persons (Hours of Employment) Act.

Besumaris Port Sanitary Officer (Conway Sub-District).

Collection and Disposal of House and Shop Refuse.

Indoor Staff: Clerk: Mr. David Williams. (Now on active service).  
Junior: Mr. J. C. Parry. " " " "



Indoor Staff (cont'd) -

Temporary Staff: Clerk: Mrs. G. Vick.  
Junior: Miss F. M. Cartwright.

HOWARD SICK DAY (GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME).Staff:

Medical Attendant (Part time):

Dr. Marjol N. Tattersall, M.B., Ch.B.

Matron:

(Mrs.) G. M. Davies, S.R.N., C.M.B.

One Assistant Nurse.

One Auxilliary Nurses.

One Cook.

One Housemaid.

One Laundrymaid.

One Handyman Gardener.

All the above Staff, excepting the Medical Attendant, are whole-time employees.

TABLE I.  
VITAL STATISTICS.

(Note: Rate per 1,000 of the Population unless otherwise specified).

	1947.
<u>BIRTHS: (Live) -</u>	
(a) Total number .....	x
(b) Boys .....	x
(c) Girls .....	x
(d) Live Birth-rate (on Registrar General's Figures).	12.42
(e) Live Birth-rate for England and Wales.	14.2
<u>DEATHS:</u>	
(a) Total number from all causes (Civilians only) ..	x
(b) Males .....	x
(c) Females .....	x
(d) General Death-rate (on Registrar General's Figures) .....	11.53
(e) Death-rate for England and Wales .....	12.9
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR:</u>	
(a) Number .....	7
(b) Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 Live Births) ..	45.7
(c) Infant Mortality for England and Wales .....	59
(d) Deaths of Legitimate Infants: Number .....	7
(e)     "     "     "     "     (rate per 1,000 Live Births) ...	47.2
(f) Deaths of Illegitimate Infants: Number .....	0
(g)     "     "     "     "     (rate per 1,000 Live Births) .	0
<u>MATERNAL (including Puerperal) MORTALITY (Deaths connected with childbirth and pregnancy):</u>	
Total .....	2
(a) From Sepsis .....	0
(b) From other causes .....	2
(c) Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 Live and Still Births) .	12.2
(d)     "     "     for England and Wales .....	2.25
<u>ZYMOTIC MORTALITY (Deaths from so-called principal Zymotic Diseases: See Table of Infectious Diseases). -</u>	
(a) Number of Deaths .....	x
(b) Zymotic Mortality .....	0.27
<u>DEATHS FROM CANCER (and allied malignant diseases):</u>	
(a) Number of deaths .....	x
(b) Cancer Mortality .....	1.6
<u>DEATHS FROM RESPIRATORY DISEASES (Non-Tuberculous):</u>	
(a) Number of Deaths .....	x
(b) Respiratory (Non-Tuberculous) Mortality .....	0.7
<u>DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS:</u>	
(a) Number of Deaths .....	x
(b) Tuberculosis Mortality .....	0.6
<u>DEATHS FROM INFLUENZA:</u>	
(a) Number of Deaths .....	x
(b) Influenza Mortality .....	0.09

x Information suppressed at request of Welsh Board of Health for reasons of National Security.

6.

TABLE II.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA - (in Statute acres: land and inland water) ..... 3,813.

TOTAL POPULATION: -

Mid Year 1939 (Registrar General's estimate) .....	9,802.
Census 1921 .....	7,964.
Census 1931 (as revised by Registrar General) .....	8,769.
Census 1931 (as enumerated) .....	8,769.
Males .....	4,114.
Females .....	4,655.
Number of Persons per acre .....	2.6

PRIVATE FAMILIES AND DWELLINGS: - (Census 1921) -

Number of Families (Private Families) .....	1,275.
Number of Dwellings occupied (Structurally separate dwellings) .....	1,197.
Population of the said private families .....	5,295.
Number of persons per family .....	4.15
Number of families per dwelling .....	1.07
Total number of rooms occupied .....	6,784.
Number of rooms per dwelling .....	5.67
Number of rooms per person .....	1.28
(Whole of Caernarvonshire ... 1.36)	
Number of persons living more than two persons to a room .....	343.
Giving a % of the said Private Family population of .....	6.5
(Compared with the whole of Caernarvonshire - 4.1)	

<u>RATEABLE VALUE - 1941</u> .....	£64,457.
Produce of a Penny Rate (in 1941) .....	£251.
Number of Members on the Council .....	20.



TABLE III.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

1941.

It has been usual in past years under this heading to give a detailed analysis of the various causes of death contributing to the total for the year already quoted but for reasons already stated it is necessary this year to suppress this information. A few general comments on the subject are, however, permissible.

(1) The total number of deaths which have occurred is substantially the same and proportionately lower than last year - a fact which is revealed by the lowering of the death-rate from 12.24 to 11.53

(2) There is a small reduction in the deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis, a fact particularly gratifying when deaths from this cause are tending to increase generally and especially in Wales.

(3) There is a very substantial increase in the number of deaths from various forms of cancer and a moderate one from heart diseases and allied conditions.

(4) The numbers of deaths from other defined causes remains substantially the same.

# TABLE IV.

PRELIMINARY NOTE: - In England and Wales the Case-Rate (number of Deaths per 1,000 of population) of certain Fevers was as follows: -

Small-pox (0.00), Scarlet Fever (1.47), Diphtheria (1.25), Enteric Fever - including Paratyphoid - (0.22), Erysipelas (0.30), Pneumonia (1.25). Calculated in relation to the number of Births, the Case-Rate of Puerperal Fever and of Puerperal Pyrexia was 11.91 per 1,000 total Births (Live and Still) registered.

# TABLE V.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

164 Cases of various infectious diseases were notified during 1941 (53 weeks ended 3rd January, 1942): Details as follows: -

Disease.	Number Notified.	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid .....	3.	3.	0.
Scarlet Fever .....	18.	17.	0.
Whooping Cough .....	43.	0.	0.
Diphtheria .....	5.	5.	0.
Erysipelas .....	3.	2.	0.
Small-pox .....	1.	-	-
Measles .....	56.	0.	0.
Pneumonia .....	7.	0.	1.
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	1.	1.	0.
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	5.	5.	0.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	-	-	-
Dysentery .....	7.	5.	0.
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	1.	1.	1.
Food Poisoning .....	1.	1.	1.
Tuberculosis:			
(Pulmonary) .....	13.	2.	7.
(Non-pulmonary) .....	1.	1.	0.

The number of Deaths due to the above Diseases per 1,000 of population cannot be quoted for reasons already given, but it may be stated that in every case they compare favourably with the Rates for England and Wales quoted in Table IV.

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.	Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -	
(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	58.
	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	53.
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	0.
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..	0.
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	0.
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	58.
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .....	50.
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year -	
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 -	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs .....	0.
	(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice -	
	(a) By owners .....	0.
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	0.
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts -	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	58.
	(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice -	
	(a) By owners .....	8.
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	0.
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 -	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	0.
	(2) Number of Dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	0.
	- Houses scheduled demolished by owners ....	0.

(cont'd)



# Housing Statistics. - (cont'd) -

(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ..	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	0.
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit .....	0.
	Number of houses built by private enterprise .....	0.
	Number of houses built by Borough Council ..	0.

## HOUSING ACT, 1935 - Overcrowding -

(a)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	0.	X
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein .....	0.	X
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein .....	0.	X
(b)	Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	0.	
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year by Local Authority .....	0.	
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	0.	
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .....	0.	
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report .....		

X Owing to the abnormal conditions, particularly after the out-break of war, it was found impossible to keep any accurate record of overcrowding.

## WORK CARRIED OUT DURING 1941: -

Number of Houses inspected for housing defects .....	58.
" " Houses found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ....	58.
" " Defective Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action .....	50.
" " Defective Houses rendered fit in consequence of formal action .....	8.
" " Houses recommended for demolition .....	0.
" " Houses re-inspected, including the supervision of repairs .....	21.
" " Informal Notices served .....	55.
" " Formal Notices served .....	0.